

minimum wage is not a truly poverty wage, as it is today.

I support the raising of the minimum wage.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1995

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

FURTHER SCHEDULING

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to underscore any confusion there has been about the time that we will be in session on Tuesday next. We will start morning business, Tuesday next, at 9:30. And we will start the House at 11.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSS. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, as I recall, it originally had been morning hours starting on Tuesday at 10:30, with the House beginning at noon. Now the gentleman is saying that the morning hour will begin at 9:30 with the House beginning at 11.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. There is no change. There was a misspeaking earlier. I am underscoring the correct time.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, the more repetition, I think, on this, the better as far as Members and their schedules.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, it is 9:30 for morning business and 11 for the House.

GOP'S CONTRACT ON AMERICA'S MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS

(Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, believe it or not my colleagues on the other side of the aisle see no need for continuing the vital efforts we in this body have made over the last two decades to diversify the ownership

ranks in America's broadcast and cable industries.

Last week the House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee indicated its plans to do away with the Federal Communications Commission's [FCC] minority tax certificate program that has been instrumental in expanding the number of minority-owned and operated television, radio, and cable stations across our country and bringing more citizens into the great public policy debates of our time.

Despite the fact that diversity in the broadcast and cable industries has been constitutionally upheld as a vital goal of U.S. telecommunications policy, despite the fact that today only 2.9 percent of such firms are minority controlled, despite the fact that undercapitalization continues to be a major impediment to minority representation in these fields, the GOP sees the FCC's minority tax certificate program as a needless initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the information age is upon us but unfortunately those individuals and communities that are presently underserved and could potentially benefit most from advances in technology and access to the airwaves are still standing on the shoulder of the superhighway in the dust being kicked up by the megacorporations tooling down the road past them. Apparently, this suits the new majority party just fine. It sure is a new era in Washington.

□ 1500

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

URGING SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION PRESERVING EARNINGS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mr. KENNELLY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. Kennelly. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the blind should continue to be able to earn as much as senior citizens under the Social Security earnings test. I will offer an amendment in the Ways and Means Committee when it marks up the Republican contract to continue the same earnings test for the blind as seniors will have under the Senior Citizen's Equity Act. This action will ensure that blind individuals can continue to be self sufficient, productive members of society.

In 1977, Congress established the same earnings exemption standard for the blind and retirees under the age of 70. In fact, this action was championed by the present chairman of the Ways

and Means Committee, and provided blind individuals with incentives to contribute as members of the work force.

Blindness is often associated with adverse social and economic consequences. It is often difficult for blind individuals to find sustained employment or for that matter employment at all. Action by Congress in 1977 provided a great deal of hope and incentive for the blind population in this country.

The Republican Contract With America raises the earnings test for senior citizens from \$11,160 a year to \$30,000 in the year 2000. However, the bill specifically de-links blind workers from this increase in the earnings test.

It is my hope that the link between senior citizens and blind individuals can continue. Let's not remove the incentive to work that we were wise enough to offer the blind in 1977. Many in this country want to work and take pride in working and contributing to society.

I have always been a supporter of the blind. When I first came to Congress in 1982 I successfully offered an amendment as a member of the Public Works and Transportation Committee that gave the blind priority to provide vending machines at rests areas and safe areas on the National Interstate Highway System. Since that time nearly every State has passed similar State laws. This action has provided lucrative revenue opportunities for over 600 blind people throughout the country and has been considered by many as a major revenue source for the blind.

We in Congress have been successful in the past 20 years in providing opportunities for the blind to succeed. Let us not go back, let us move forward and extend the increase in the earnings exemption that we are providing to seniors to the blind.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BEREUTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PRESERVING THE REPUTATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I view the House of Representatives as one of the most respected bodies and institutions in this world, maybe not quite to the extent that I do my church and my home, but it reaches right up there with them.

This is the greatest institution for democracy in the world. It should never be sullied, should never be soiled